THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Demand for destruction of Imported Butter

1489. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra State Government Employees' Confederation had demanded for destroying the imported white butter lying in storage of Greater Bombay Mills scheme at Turbhe to avoid contamination by radio activity.

(b) if so, whether the sample of the butter was tested by any competent authority, if so, the result thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to their demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Government's attention has been drawn to the news item in this regard.

(b) and (c) The samples of butter were tested by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay, and were found to be well below the limits of permissible levels.

Installation of Tube-well in Ashok Vihar, New Delhi

1490. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2225 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th May, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been delay in installation of tube-well in H-Block, Ashok Vihar, Phase-I, New Delhi for which provision has already been made by Government; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof and what steps are being taken to instal the tube-well forthwith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Approval of the estimates submitted for the replacement of the abandoned tube-wells is awaited. The progress in regard to the installation of new one is being ascertained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Norms for fixing of Prices of Fertilizers

1491. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms for fixing the retail prices of various chemical-fertilisers that are manufactured in India and also imported;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a policy decision to allow a minimum of 12% per cent profit to the Fertiliser manufacturers or any other minimum floor level of profit is fixed for them and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are some concessions granted to the fertiliser manufacturers with regard to income tax and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government have worked out the minimum floor level of profits to fertiliser manufacturers as referred in part (b) above after taking into account the factor of income tax and if so, the detailed break up of the

calculations on which the retail prices of fertilisers are fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) While fixing the retail prices of fertilizer the cost of production of fertilizers, landed cost of imported fertilizers and also the reasonable return to the farmers are kept in view.

(b) In determining the retention prices of fertilizer the post tax return of 12 per cent on net worth in case of nitrogenous and complex fertilizers and 11 per cent on net worth for SSP is provided.

(c) Fertilizer manufacturers have the same concessions with regard to income-tax as applicable to other industrial units.

(d) The present standard rate of taxation for units other than Cooperative Sector is 50 per cent (40 per cent for Cooperatives). Pre-tax return of 24 per cent on net worth in fixing retention prices of Nitrogenous and complex fertilisers and 22 per cent Pre-tax return on net worth for SSP, is provided. The method of grossing up the rate of return for standard rate of taxation is adopted for nitrogenous fertilisers. The retail prices of fertilisers, however, are not fixed taking into account the retention prices of fertilisers and are fixed keeping in view the cost of production of fertilisers, landed cost of imported fertilisers and also the reasonable return to the farmers on use of fertilisers.

Foodgrains Reserves

1492. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the position with regard to the foodgrains reserves in the country;

(b) what is our estimated annual consumption of various foodgrains, out of this how much is available by way of reserves and to what extent dependence upon this year's crop is proposed; and

(c) in view of failure of monsoon almost throughout the country this year, whether estimated dependence on this year's Kharif crop will be realised and what alternative arrangement Government have thought of with a view to maintain prices of foodgrains, please give details with specific reference to the measures worked out for lower middle class and poor sections of masses?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The total stock of foodgrains with the public agencies as on the 1st July, 1987 was estimated at 23.39 million tonnes.

(b) Demand for foodgrains in the country depends on various factors, such as population growth, extent of urbanisation, levels of income, prices of substitutable foodgrains etc. Precise estimates of total consumption/requirements of various foodgrains in the country are not available.

As per buffer stocking policy, the total stock of foodgrains with the public agencies as on the 1st July of the year should be 21.4 million tonnes, against which the available stocks were about 23.39 million tonnes. However, issues from the public stocks are only supplemental to the open market availability.

(c) It is too early to estimate the likely size of the coming Kharif crop. The requirement of the vulnerable sections of the population is being met through public distribution system, employment programmes and scheme for distribution of foodgrains at specially subsidised rates to the people in the tribal areas.